

By an amendment to the *Hours of Work Act*, caretakers and janitors employed in offices and commercial buildings were brought under the Act. Those working in buildings used principally for residential purposes are exempted. The stipulation against a reduction of wages in undertakings where hours were reduced to 44 as required by the Act unless time and one-half is paid, was extended to Apr. 1, 1950.

Janitors and watchmen were brought within the scope of the *One Day's Rest in Seven Act*.

The *Minimum Wage Act* was amended to require an employer to give a week's written notice of intention to lay off an employee who has been in his service for three months or more. The Act formerly required a week's notice to be given in cases of discharge.

A new section inserted in the *Factories Act* empowers the Minister of Labour to impose on the owner of a factory, rather than on the occupier, any obligation imposed by the Act or regulations to install equipment or make alterations in premises which are occupied by an employer other than the owner.

The *Teachers' Salary Negotiation Act* was passed to establish procedure for collective bargaining between teachers and boards of school trustees.

A new Act sets forth the duties and powers of inspectors and lays down requirements concerning construction, installation, operation and repair of passenger and freight elevators. An Act was also passed respecting electrical inspection and licensing.

Alberta.—No labour legislation was enacted at the 1949 session of the Alberta Legislature. Amendments to the *Boilers Act* make the sections of the Act relating to pressure vessels applicable to liquefied petroleum gas containers.

British Columbia.—The *Apprenticeship Act* was amended giving more authority to the Minister of Labour in exempting minors from the requirement of entering into a contract of apprenticeship. Persons under 21 years of age working in designated trades under conditions that prevent them from receiving the necessary training to become proficient at those trades may now be exempted. A minor who has learned his trade without entering into a contract of apprenticeship and who has, in the opinion of the Provincial Apprenticeship Committee, the skill required for a fully qualified tradesman in that trade, is no longer prevented from working at his trade.

An amendment to the *Municipal Act* provides for compulsory arbitration in a dispute between a municipality or Board of Police Commissioners and the firemen and policemen in their employ.

Northwest Territories.—The *Workmen's Compensation Ordinance*, 1948, effective Mar. 1, 1949, requires employers to obtain, in an approved company, accident insurance providing for payment of compensation to their workmen for personal injury by accident or disability by reason of certain industrial diseases. If an employer fails to enter into a contract of insurance he is liable to a fine not exceeding \$500, and, in addition, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories may refuse to grant him a licence to carry on business or may cancel such licence if already granted.

The Commissioner may exempt from the application of the Ordinance any employer who has made other satisfactory arrangements for the protection of his workmen. Industries and diseases covered by the Ordinance have been prescribed by regulation.